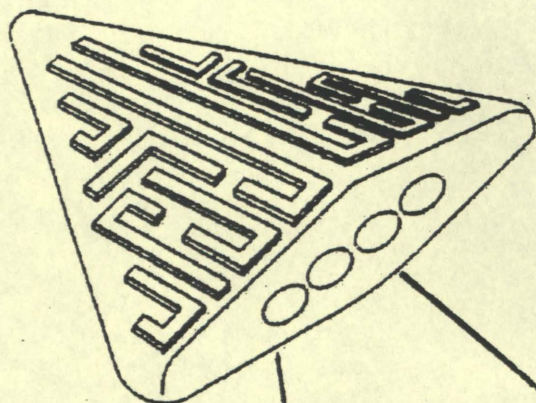
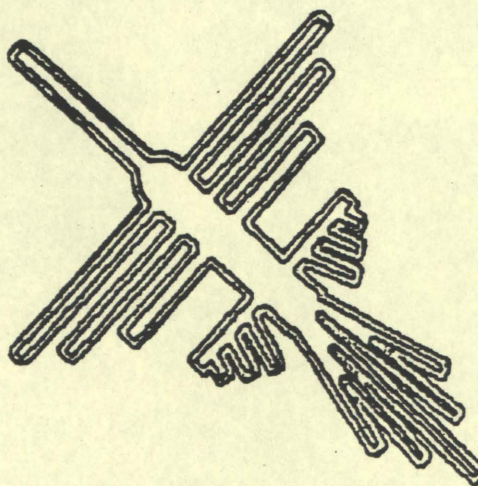


May/June

2003



O V N I



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THE RENDLESHAM FOREST ENIGMA

A few months ago the M.O.D. released a file that they had kept secret for over twenty years. The classified dossier contained 155 pages on the event that affected thousands of people and changed some peoples lives forever. It concerns the event that took place in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in late December 1980.

The forest is situated between the twin Air Force bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge which were active during the period 1942 - 1993.

This event occurred at a time when the 'Cold War' was at its height and the Woodbridge base was in a condition of high alert. Armed American Air Force Security Police patrolled the base and were prepared to use 'deadly force' to protect the aircraft and underground silos which stored the biggest nuclear arsenal in Europe. It is was with some alarm that security police at the gates, reported seeing lights moving in the forest on the night, just before Christmas Day.

In a recent television documentary one of the American Airforce Security Police, Sgt. Jim Penniston went into some detail describing the alarm felt when what appeared to be a crashed aircraft on fire was first seen in the forest. Sgt. Jim Penniston sought permission to take a jeep and then, with other policemen drove into the woods. They reached a point where the jeep could go no further and they left the jeep and walked into the woods towards the glowing object. Sgt. Penniston commented that he could feel his hair raising as though he was in the presence of an electrical charge. Then as they drew closer, they were able to see a glowing craft that was so bright it lit up the surrounding trees.

It soon became obvious to Sgt. Penniston as he walked around the glowing craft that this object was not something made on Earth. Then the glowing craft slowly lifted off the ground, hovered at tree height for a moment, then in a flash it was gone!

The Deputy Base Commander Lt.Col. Charles Halt, read the incident report the following day, but together with others, was convinced that there was a logical explanation for the event. Sgt. Penniston said that the staff treated his report as a bit of light relief. However on the evening of the 27th December 1980 'It was back'. It was then that Col. Halt took a party of personnel to investigate the incident and was shocked by what he found. (*See the 'Halt Memo' page 8*)

The TV documentary later produced a number of skeptics who amazingly tried to explain away the incident as a light shining from a distant lighthouse. This was followed by Mr Vince Thurkettle, a forestry worker stating that there was a natural explanation for the 'landing markings' visible in the forest...they were made by rabbits. Understandably Col. Halt made it quite clear in the television interview, that he knew what he had seen and it wasn't rabbits or a distant lighthouse. Remember that he was after all, the Deputy Base Commander and nobody's fool.

What was omitted from the TV programme was the evidence of another prime witness of the UFO landing incident and that was ex-US Air Force Policeman - Larry Warren. His account of the encounter was not mentioned in the TV documentary and just to put the record straight, we have included his account in full in this issue of the OVNI.

The Rendlesham Forest Incident

By Omar Fowler

Larry Warren was a member of the 81st United States Air Force Security Police, stationed at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk, during the period 27/28/29 December 1980 when a series of UFO incidents took place. These are known as either the Rendlesham Forest, Bentwaters or Woodbridge incidents.

Together with fellow American UFO Researcher Peter Robbins and Tony James of the East Midlands group EMUFORA, Larry Warren re-visited the site in March 1994.

Larry Warren takes up the story:-

I was unable to reveal a number of aspects of the UFO events years ago because of security. Forget about UFO's, 'they' can snuff that out. We can be portrayed as either liars, fools, or people just out to make money.

I arrived at RAF Bentwaters on December 1st 1980, after completing extensive air base ground defence and nuclear weapons tactical training. We had the largest nuclear arms dump in all of NATO, it was split between the two bases (Woodbridge & Bentwaters). I knew that just one of our nuclear weapons could have removed East Anglia with no problem! (Both RAF Woodbridge and USAF Bentwaters are now closed).

On the night of the 27th of December (1980) a police patrol observed lights in the direction of Eastgate Road, in Rendlesham Forest, it was a tall pine forest at the time. The next night further activity took place and that's when I became involved.

On the night of the 29th of December our security group was called out, we boarded our military pick-up trucks and entered Rendlesham Forest. Colonel Halt and Lt. England were in my truck and we also carried a lot of lighting equipment. We were only able to proceed so far before we were ordered to stop in a clearing. There was an 'armoury' vehicle parked there and we had to surrender our weapons (which we shouldn't have taken off the base anyway). However, a few people still carried side arms and several people carried radio's. We had no idea what was happening but we could see a lot of activity down at the end of the road. There were a lot of flashlights moving about and a lot of radio transmissions.

I was in a group of five with a Lt. and we moved through the woods down a path into the forest. I could see flares over to my left at about a 100 yards. There were red surveyor sticks and we heard over the radio "we want you guys to avoid those hot spots", to us that meant radiation areas. We still had no idea what was going on.

We walked down this logging road and just at that moment we came across our flight chief talking to a young airman sitting on a fallen tree. He sat holding his head in his hands and was out of control, very upset. I guess I was in a kind of perceptive shock by this time.

We continued on our way and came over a rise in the ground, I remember the brambles tearing at my legs. Then we saw this illuminated field, (Capel Green). The trees were lit up yellow and in the distance we could see a farmhouse, with a light on in an upstairs window. This 'thing' illuminated everything. During my visit to the site recently, it all came back to me. There is no way that it cannot, this event changed my life forever.

In the centre of this field there was a huge light, it was about a foot in height and about fifty feet across. It was self-illuminated, you could see through it at times.

Nearby there were cameras set up, movie cameras and video's. We were told to move into the field and I came to a halt within twenty feet of the object. It was not hovering and I can only describe it as a "solidified mist".

We all stood there watching it, there were security police from "D Flight", there were two English 'bobbies' and nearby some senior personnel. Then we saw the 'disaster preparedness' crew move in. They were equipped with geiger counters and they started going around this thing on the ground. Then two cows came up and stood staring at the illuminated mist, we never saw them again, I'm not sure what happened. (The cows ran off and were later hit by a taxi).

Then we saw this small red light moving over the top of some trees at the edge of the field. At first we thought it was an aircraft because the runway is only a mile and half away. Then the red light moved in quickly over the trees and approached the field in a downward arc. Then it stopped and hovered about twenty feet off the ground. It was the size of an American basketball, self-illuminated, not quite red, but that's as close as I can get to it.

Then just as we were watching it, it exploded and light showered down on this object. I was fairly close to this event and the brilliance of the flash affected my eyes. Some personnel ran and disappeared back into the forest and a lot of us were left standing there in a state of shock.

Suddenly in place of the mist, there was now a more solid looking object. It was about thirty feet across at the base and the sides rose up sharply to about twenty five feet in height. It had delta appendages that came out of it, I don't know whether they were landing gear or not, I couldn't be sure as it was so close to the ground. It had no windows, no markings, no flags, no country of origin, nothing.

Because of the brilliance of the light you could hardly look at it dead on, if you looked at it from the side of your peripheral vision you could just make out the shape of it. There it was and we couldn't move. I felt as if I were in something like a 'dream state', even now I can't comprehend the true dimensions of it.

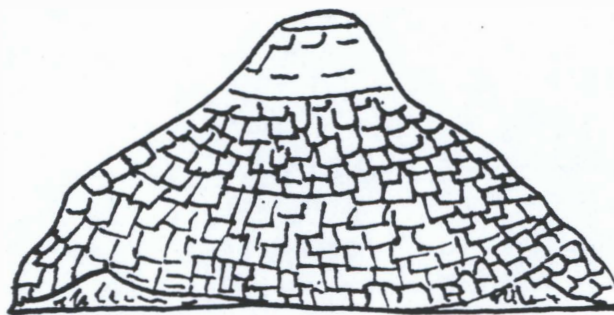
At this point my sergeant, myself, a disaster preparedness man and my shift commander were ordered to move in on this object. I noticed that when we were standing close to it our shadows were cast upon it at an angle. Somehow this object was 'pulling' our shadows. This effect was strange because we had no lights behind us. (*Once we had got our lighting equipment into the forest, none of it would work!*)

Shortly afterwards, we were ordered back to our original position. At that point the whole object was surrounded by our security police at intervals of about ten feet, there were a lot of personnel out there.

Then a light moved out of the side of the object and split into three. In each light you could make out what appeared to be individual beings of some kind. *I saw clearly what looked like eyes, facial features, clothing and some other device*, but I couldn't make out the legs and the lower extremities, it was almost as if the light was translucent at that point.



Larry Warren, a first hand witness of the strange events that took place in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980



A sketch based on Larry's description of the object. At times it became translucent, giving off a brilliant glow and lighting up the countryside,

One 'being' moved towards the front, there was a lot of activity, cameras flashing all the while. Our Wing Commander Lt. Col. Williams, stood nearby with other senior officers (I recognised him, as he was six foot seven). He conversed with the people in his group and then he approached these three "beings" or whatever you wish to call them.

As he stood in front of the centre one, it adjusted its head up to his height and to me, this proved that these things were in fact alive.

There was no sign language, no hand shakes and no exchange of Milky Way candy bars! What happened next was what could be described as a 'face off'. If there was any communication it must have been by telepathy, who can say, I've never stated what it was. Suddenly there was a sound in the woods like a tree breaking and these 'beings' retracted under a delta type of thing on the craft. Their arms moved up tight and then after a minute or so they moved back closer. I was only about twenty five feet away from all of this activity. I could see them clearly, they were not standing and *there was no three dimensional shape to them.*

The two British bobbies were still taking pictures, but then I saw their cameras taken away from them. (I understand that they are no longer police officers at Woodbridge, one had a mental breakdown and the other was virtually ridiculed off the force and now has an alcohol problem).

Then my shift commander then told us to return to our vehicle. We went back over the rise and headed back to the trucks. When we reached the parking area, we could see strange lights in the sky and these strange blue things moving around. We boarded our vehicles and headed back to Woodbridge with our group.

I was totally 'screwed up' over what I had seen or thought that I had seen. In fact it changed the lives of everyone who was involved in these events. I know about some of events that took place at Rendlesham, but I still don't know the complete story.

According to other witnesses, when I had gone, a smaller triangular object appeared in the parking area where the vehicles had assembled. It was so small that one of the personnel grabbed the object by putting his arms around it. The object then moved about ten metres with him holding on to it. I believe that the person concerned subsequently suffered severe health effects. Then another guy got into his pick-up truck and a 'being' or whatever you want to call it, followed it right down the road. Then this creature passed right through the windshield. (it seemed they could go through metal or whatever). The driver could see its face quite clearly and he went bonkers' and kicked the windshield right out of the truck.

Other witnesses who were at the scene, have told me that a beam then shot down out of the sky and this 'being' ran straight up the beam into a dark shape hovering above, it wasn't possible to make out what it was.

The next morning, hours after the event, I was back at Bentwaters, having coffee with a number of the other guys who had been at the incident and we were made fun of by the guys just coming on duty on the day shift. We got it all, "little green men" etc. I noticed that my eyes were watering profusely and I had a metallic taste in my mouth. My buddy looked at me across the table and said "what the hell happened to us?" I started to talk, but our sergeant told me to shut up.

We had not yet been de-briefed, but I suspected that this was coming. Then at about 10am, I got a phone call to report up to the security chiefs office. When I arrived the first thing that happened was that people from the "disaster preparedness" team went over six or seven of us with geiger counters, I was very scared at this point.

We were then told to sign security documents. What disturbed me about this paperwork was that it was a pre-typed statement and it said that we were off duty and that we just saw lights flipping across the trees. We were ushered into the office where we were greeted, not by "men in black" but by men in grey business suits from the United States. They were very unfriendly looking and they wore plastic laminate I.D. badges, which read "Armed Forces Security Services".

Through our research, we know that "Armed Forces Security Services" is a field arm of the National Security Agency, which is a very dirty bird in this whole story. There was also a "Commander Green" from the Office of Naval Intelligence in London, (the USAF did not de-brief us).

We were told that this "problem" has existed longer than anyone of us in the room was aware. They did not say anything about UFO's or E.T.'s, nothing.... we just sat there and listened. The propaganda talk continued and we were warned that if we communicated these events via the mail, via the telephone or in any way shape or form, we would be reprimanded.

We were next shown a film, a debriefing tool, it does only one thing, to confuse you even more about what you have gone through. After the film finished, we were told to "toe the line" and the government would look after us. No threats other than this....one of us asked a question, what would happen if we told about this. The AFSS chap just looked at us and with a smile said "bullets are cheap!" Everyone laughed, but it was kind of sick.

Then I heard a humming sound to my right and I looked over and there was a guy I knew was from the American "Bible Belt". (In that faith there is no one bigger than Jesus and certainly no one else is coming to Earth). The humming was coming from this guy, he was holding a small pocket bible and reciting "Hail Mary", "Hail Mary", non-stop! That was really sad because he was a nice type of a guy, but he was destroyed by this. He went "a.w.o.l." two weeks later, was picked up at Chicago airport by the FBI and returned to the base.

I was on patrol duty the night that he called in and said he was going to kill himself. We and another vehicle patrol responded, but it was too late. He had put an M16 into his mouth....that was the first time that I had ever seen death.

In these events, lives were lost and this is something the government doesn't want disclosed.

Later on, together with a friend of mine, I went to one of the red public telephones on the base and telephoned my mother. I figured they were never going to watch that. I got through and said "You're never going to believe this but last night we saw a UFO and it landed on the base".....suddenly she wasn't there anymore! I knew I was in trouble, because we have a thing called "Comsec" (communications security).

Later, I was called into the base command centre and accused of breaching security. I denied it several times, but then they played me a tape of my phone call and offered me two choices. I could lose my stripes or have a fine of \$300. There would have been no reprimand and nothing in the record books. I went for the money. After that I was watched constantly. Many witnesses were sent on temporary duty assignments to Egypt and all over the World, there were guys I never saw again! I didn't think that this cover-up was as deep as it was, but you just can't imagine it until it happens to you and you see it go on.

Films and photographs of this event do exist and this has been verified by senior people above me. I didn't know until later, that RAF Watton tracked these object for three nights. The USAF went to them, explained what happened and then asked if they could borrow the radar tapes. They took the tapes away and they were never returned. This caused political repercussions, but it was then quietly covered up.

On the 10th of January 1981, a few days after the incident, I visited the Optical Retina Clinic at Lakenheath, as my eyes were causing me problems. After extensive investigation, I was informed that I had burns to the retina of both eyes. (Larry Warren later stole his medical records, as he was sure they would disappear). Another problem that developed in later years was bleeding through the skin and after a number of medical tests, I was told "you are showing signs of radiation sickness".

I no longer worked as a security police officer and had been relegated to a typing job in a back office where "they" could keep an eye on me. I subsequently decided to quit the USAF and after contacting a lawyer, applied for an honourable discharge on the grounds of "breach of contract". My request was granted and duly signed by Col. Gordon Williams on September 15th 1981.

It was only revealed last year (1993), during an interview with Lt. Col. C.I.Halt (Deputy Base Commander USAF), that the actions of the UFO's had affected the nuclear weapons in their underground storage areas. This happened when the UFO's shot their beams of light down over the Woodbridge Base. The light beams apparently penetrated the "hardened" nuclear storage bunkers and somehow affected the weapons stored within, making many of them useless.

Peter Robbins the American Researcher and associate of Budd Hopkins has been working with Larry Warren on a new book about the incident called "Left At East Gate" (the NSA have asked for changes to be made to the book, but this has been refused). Peter visited the Rendlesham Forest location 8 years after the incident during his research on the book. He confirmed that the ground was still discoloured. Soil samples were taken from the site and these were later analysed, showing "profound differences when compared to soil in the adjoining area".

Read the full account of the incident in the book "Left At East Gate" Michael O'Mara
Books Ltd. ISBN 1-85479-231-8. £15.99

A Copy of the famous 'Col. Halt' Memo.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

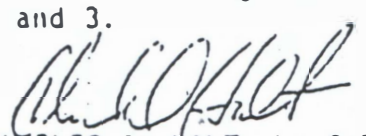
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

**A REPORT FROM 'HANSARD' ON QUESTIONS RAISED BY LORD HILL-NORTON
(BRITAIN'S FORMER MILITARY SUPREMO) ON THE 'RENDLESHAM FOREST' INCIDENT.**

WA 169

Written Answers

14 OCTOBER 1997**Written Answers**

Tuesday, 28th October 1997.

**Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt:
Memorandum**

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the Ministry of Defence replied to the 1981 memorandum from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, which reported the presence of an unidentified craft that had landed in close proximity to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, witnessed by United States Air Force personnel; and if not, why not; and

How the radiation readings reported to the Ministry of Defence by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt in his memorandum dated 13 January 1981 compare to the normal levels of background radiation in Rendlesham Forest.

Lord Gilbert: The memorandum, which reported observations of unusual lights in the sky, was assessed by staff in the MoD responsible for air defence matters. Since the judgment was that it contained nothing of defence significance, no further action was taken.

There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt. From a Defence perspective some 16½ years after the alleged events, there is no requirement to carry out such an assessment now.

Thursday, 23rd October 1997.**Highpoint Prison**Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether staff at Highpoint Prison in Suffolk received instructions to prepare for a possible evacuation of the prison at some time between 25 and 30 December 1980, and if so, why these instructions were issued.

Lord Williams of Mostyn: I regret to advise the noble Lord that I am unable to answer his Question, as records for Highpoint Prison relating to the period concerned are no longer available. The governor's journal is the record in which a written note is made of significant events concerning the establishment on a daily basis. It has not proved possible to locate that journal.

*This prison is near
Newmarket, + many miles from
Rendlesham! So... what happened
THERE ???*

**RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge:
Nuclear Weapons Allegations**

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the allegations contained in the recently published book *Left at East Gate*, to the effect that nuclear weapons were stored at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in violation of UK/US treaty obligations are true.

Lord Gilbert: It has always been the policy of this and previous governments neither to confirm nor to deny where nuclear weapons are located either in the UK or elsewhere, in the past or at the present time. Such information would be withheld under exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they are aware of reports from the United States Air Force personnel that nuclear weapons stored in the Weapons Storage Area at RAF Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft seen over the base in the period 25-30 December 1980, and if so, what action was subsequently taken.

Lord Gilbert: There is no evidence to suggest that the Ministry of Defence received any such reports.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What information they have on the suicide of the United States security policeman from the 81st Security Police Squadron who took his life at RAF Bentwaters in January 1981; and whether they will detail the involvement of the British police, Coroner's Office, and any other authorities concerned.

Lord Gilbert: MoD has no information concerning the alleged suicide. Investigations into such occurrences are carried out by the US Forces.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

What information they have on the medical problems experienced by various United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, which stemmed from their involvement in the so-called Rendlesham Forest incident, in December 1980.

Lord Gilbert: Information on medical matters relating to US personnel is a matter for the US authorities.

MINI 'ROD' PHOTOGRAPHED IN A HINCKLEY CHURCHYARD

A report sent in by PRA member Colin Saunders from the 'Hinckley Times 19 December 2002'.

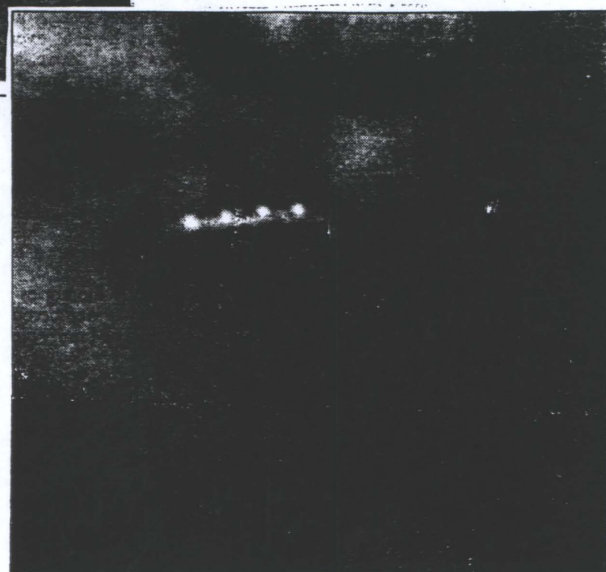
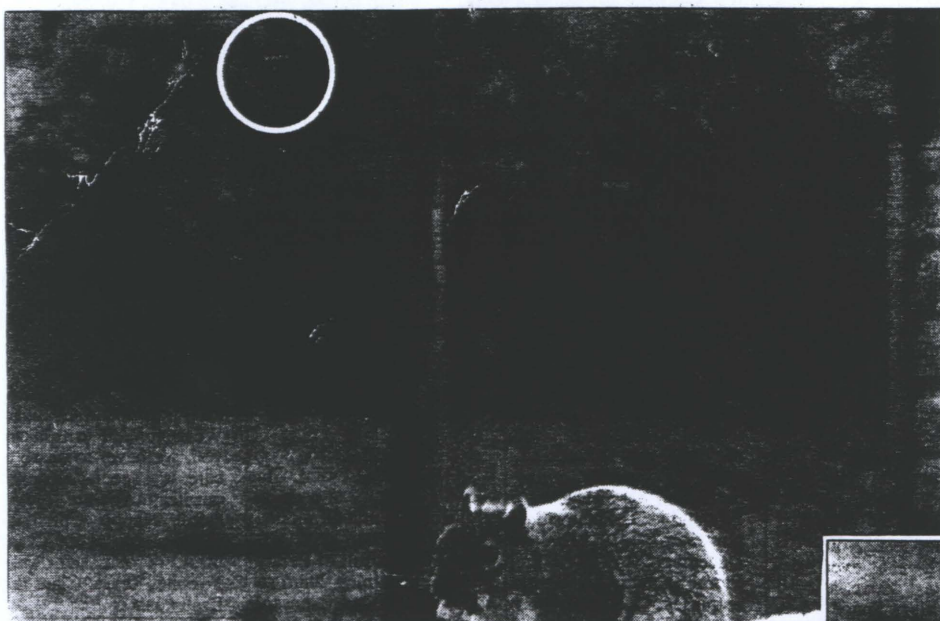
On Sunday December 1st 2002, Anthony Martin and his wife Anne were walking through St. Mary's churchyard, Hinckley with their three year old son Christopher looking for squirrels.

"We were walking in St Mary's churchyard about 3pm when Anthony took this particular picture of a squirrel" said Mrs Martin. "Eventually we made our way home and just thought what a nice picture it was, thinking nothing more of it."

It wasn't until later that day when Mr Martin was downloading the film onto his computer that he saw something unusual. Magnifying the image, he noticed a strange translucent object in the background of the scene.

The image reminded him of something he had seen on a television programme about 'Rods', the name given to the sci-fi phenomenon captured on film during the 1990's. The programme featured Jose Escamilla, an American film producer whose life changed forever in March 1994, when he recorded video footage of a strange creature flying in the sky.

'Rods' have since been video'd world-wide and there is speculation that they may be a previously undiscovered life-form.



Mr Martin has e-mailed the photo to Mr Escamilla, who verified it as a 'Rod'.

STRANGE GLOWING BALL OF LIGHT SEEN OVER CHADDESSEN, DERBY 28th MARCH 2003.

Once again we have a reported sighting of an unusual object over Chaddesden, Derby at 10.15pm on the night of Friday the 28th March this year.

For some unknown reason this area of Derby is fast becoming a hotbed of UFO activity. Over recent years there have been a number of reports, including a report of 'Flying Crosses' flying over Chaddesden on the night of the 30th September last year.

The latest report has been sent to us by Mr D.Lever who saw the object, with his daughter (10) as it approached them. Mr Lever's report is given below:

"At 10.15pm as I was putting my daughter to bed, I was looking out of the window at the stars, when I noticed an amber/orange light coming from the direction of the EMA (East Midlands Airport)."

"This was rather an unusual light, as I am used to seeing the aeroplanes landing and taking off, using their landing/taking off lights, which are a very bright white light. Then they usually turn them off after a few minutes."

"This light stayed all the way and intensified as it came over towards us. As it came very close to our house, it almost came to a complete stop! At this point we ran outside, me and my daughter (10) watched from the garden, then shouted to my girlfriend and her friend to come and look as well. They can also confirm what we all saw."

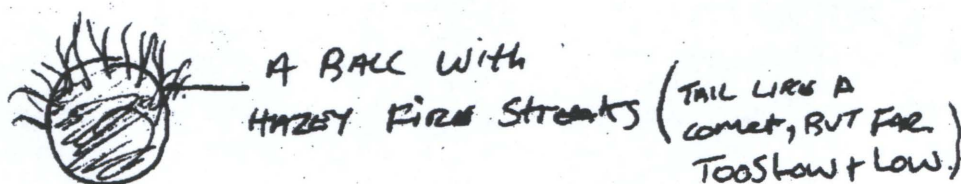
"There was no sound at all, even at such close proximity to our house!"

"By now my daughter thought it was an aeroplane's engine on fire (her words), but there was still no sound at all. At this point I tried to take some video, but the camera battery was flat."

"As I ran out of the house, my daughter was running in and by the time we were both in the garden again (only a matter of seconds) the light had totally disappeared."

Mr Lever stated that the whole observation had taken place in 7 to 8 minutes, during which time the object passed "more or less overhead." His impression was of a very bright amber ball of fire, travelling fairly fast and watched by the four witnesses before it just "disappeared." He also stated that none of the witnesses could recognise it as a "normal flying machine."

The weather conditions at the time were good, with some scattered cloud, but the stars were visible.



Mr Lever's sketch.

LASER-LIKE LIGHT BEAM SEEN NEAR TWYCROSS

A report from Colin Saunders

Strange beams of light seen in the sky without an identifiable source often defy a logical explanation. One such report, witnessed by a Fire Officer Manager and his wife has reached us recently. Although the exact date is unknown it remains a mystery.

Mr John Elliott and his wife had just left Nuneaton railway station in their car at 1815hrs, in early March of this year. It was dusk as they pulled out off the A444 at Twycross and headed towards Snarestone on the B4116.

Mr Elliott takes up the story:

"As we were driving along I glanced to my left and saw what I at first thought was a TV transmitter mast. I soon realised that it was not a mast, but a thin shaft of light shining down through the low cloud cover."

"On observation, I could see two other shafts of light that were less bright. I pointed this out to my wife Maureen, who also observed it."

"The lights were several miles away, I would estimate 5 - 10 miles at the closest, across the fields towards Appleby and the A42. I thought it might have been the Police helicopter and I continued to observe the light, without stopping until I arrived home." (*Sweptstone, Leicestershire*).

"I then got out of my car and walked in the dark and quiet to the paddock at the rear of my house. From there I continued to observe the lights as they moved away towards Ratcliffe Power Station i.e. in a NNE direction. I could hear no noise at all and the light remained completely vertical at all times."

"I concluded that it was not a helicopter due to the lack of noise and no movement out of the vertical. It could have been an aircraft, but it was moving very slowly and again, no deviation from the vertical. I am familiar with seeing lots of aircraft approaching the East Midlands Airport, but they always turn."

Editors Comment: *It was an interesting point that Mr Elliott made when he later described the light as being rod-like, with no spreading of the beam at any point.*

Similar lights have been described emanating from various UFO craft. They have been compared to a tubular fluorescent tube and in some instances the light has not reached the ground but appears from the sky and is 'cut off', leaving the impression of a suspended tube in the sky.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHT SEEN OVER BELPER

At about 9pm on the night of the 2nd April 03, Mr John Shelton, who lives at Oakerthorpe happened to look out of his bedroom window, which has a view overlooking fields in the general direction of Belper.

He observed a yellow light about three times the size of a high magnitude star descending at an angle roughly 70 degrees from the horizontal, from a height of about 3,000ft in a quite rapid rate. The time it took to descend was no more than 10 seconds. The light was very bright and transcribed an arc as it descended.

"I looked for navigation lights but saw none. The light was lost from sight as it went behind a hill at Heage, which is between Oakerthorpe and Belper. My window faces South and I heard no noise during the observation. The light was almost golden in appearance (if you can imagine a cross between yellow and gold.)"

Editors Comment: *Both Belper and Heage have had a number of UFO sightings over recent years.*

Subj: The Evening Sky - May 2003
Date: 30/04/03 10:13:54 GMT Daylight Time
From: walterberg@theeveningsky.co.uk (Walter Berg)
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The Evening Sky May 2003

Jupiter sets before midnight and so early evening is the best time to view Jupiter while it is still high in the sky. Jupiter is truly the king of planets for 18 new moons have recently been discovered orbiting the planet. This brings the total number of moons orbiting Jupiter to 58. This is the last month to observe Saturn, the ringed planet before it disappears from the evening sky. The total number of moons (so far discovered) orbiting Saturn is 30.

Mars rises after midnight moving through the star constellation of Capricorn. Mars is brightening all the time as it moves ever closer to the Earth. Mars' southern polar ice cap is now pointing towards the Earth. Indeed, much Martian surface detail will soon be visible through a small telescope.

Venus and Mercury are not really good to observe at this time, as both are lost to the glare of the Sun. Two spacecraft will head toward these planets soon: the Messenger craft leaves for Mercury in 2004 and the Venus Express leaves in 2005.

Full Moon occurs on the 16th bringing a total lunar eclipse. The eclipse begins around 3 am and ends around 6 am so be up at 2.30 am sharp: no excuses! The Moon is close to the Earth on the 16th so we will see a large Full Moon turn a lovely coppery/orange colour. A solar eclipse occurs on May 31st, visible only from north-east Scotland. This would be a total eclipse if the Moon were closer to the Earth. The Moon is at apogee, farthest from the Earth on May 28, (254 thousand miles distance). The lunar disc will therefore appear small when observed from Earth. The lunar disc is smaller than the solar disc and thus does not completely cover the solar disc. We call this an annular or ring eclipse.

The first of May has been celebrated as a day of fertility for thousands of years. The ancient Celts called May 1st "Bealtaine", the beginning of summer. The 'recent' Celts divided the year into eight parts: quarter-days or low-days and cross-quarter days or high-days. May 1st is a cross-quarter / high-day. At this time people gathered mayflowers (Hawthorne) to decorate houses while singing the song 'Here we go gathering knots of may'. The old saying 'Cast not a clout till may is out' refers to the blossoming of the mayflower. Let us all go a-maying this year and reconnect with the Earth and the Sky!

Enjoy Your Evening Sky!

Walter Berg - walterberg@theeveningsky.co.uk

TALE ENDERS

IS SOMETHING UNUSUAL GOING ON DOWN THE EAST COAST?

(With thanks to Paul Foster for supplying the information given below)

BGS ALERT: POSSIBLE SONIC EVENTS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 15 APRIL 2003 01:00 - 05:00 UTC
BGS have received enquiries from the media regarding reports from residents of several towns in Nottinghamshire, of felt events between 01:00 - 05:00, this morning (15th April). Felt reports described, "a rumbling sound" and "a tremor". The nearest rapid-access networks were examined and no earthquakes or signals consistent with sonic origins were detected at the various times reported. The RAF were contacted and they advised that no record of military aircraft were operational in the area at the time.

BGS ALERT: PROBABLE SONIC EVENTS - COASTAL AREAS OF LINCOLNSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE 8 APRIL 2003 19:00 - 21:00
BGS have received numerous felt reports from the media and residents of several coastal towns in Lincolnshire and Humberside, of felt events between 19:00 -21:00 UTC, last night. Felt reports described, the house shook, windows rattled and I heard a rumbling sound. The nearest rapid-access networks were examined and no earthquakes or signals consistent with sonic origins were detected at the times reported. The RAF were contacted and confirmed that military aircraft were operational in the area at the time.

BGS ALERT: SONIC EVENT BRIDLINGTON, HUMBERSIDE 3 APRIL 2003 10:21 UTC.
BGS have received numerous felt reports from the media and residents of Bridlington of a felt event at approximately 10:21 UTC yesterday morning. Felt reports described, the house shook, windows cracked and I heard a rumbling sound. The nearest rapid-access networks were examined and no earthquakes were detected. However a signal that is consistent with a sonic origin was observed on the microphone (LDU) on the BGS Leeds network at 10:21 UTC. The RAF could not confirm that any aircraft were operational at the time.

CHESTERFIELD UFO SIGHTING: From John Brooks. At about 8pm on the 5th of May 03, I happened to look on the sky, when I noticed an object travelling NE. The sun was still out, with unbroken cloud. I couldn't figure out how it was reflecting the sun, as it was in the West, when suddenly it just 'went out' as if someone had turned out the light! no vapour trail or object was visible after the light had gone out.

UFO SIGHTINGS PERPLEX PENINSULA RESIDENTS (From Harvey Cooke, New Zealand) A retired couple were sitting in their lounge at 9.20pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, when they saw a bullet shaped object stop about 30 metres above their house at Coromandel Peninsula. It stayed for about half a minute before speeding a short distance and stopping again. "it had distinct orange lights that twinkled, we have never seen anything like it before" said the husband.

Four days later on Sunday Feb. 16th two retired Whitianga men were sitting outside at about 6.30pm when they saw two silver discs fly out of the SW heading East. They were followed shortly after by a mustard coloured cylindrical object with two pointed wings about two thirds of the way along the sides, but no tail or windows were seen. A heat shimmer came from the rear of the craft and it made no sound. "I said to my mate, what the hell's that" said the man "It made the hair on the back of my neck stand up!"

NEXT PRA MEETING

Will be held at the Royal British Legion, Allenton, Derby, on Tuesday 27th May at 8pm.

A video from East Coast investigator Russell Kellett will be shown. This includes several sequences of UFO activity in the vicinity of the Flamborough Head/Bridlington area.

We will also show extracts from a recent UFO Conference held in the USA.

£1 on the night. Non-members welcome. Free Raffle for a selected UFO book.

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